Id) if so, what steps are being taken (a) It has not been possible to some ether area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) It has not been possible to locate an alternative site for dumping the garbage.

(b) The refuse is collected regularly to avoid insanitation and pollution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The owner of H. No. 13, Souta Extension Part-I has filed a suit in the Court and matter is subjudice.

Persons Killed by terrorists in Punjab

2&&. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons klled at different places in Punjab by terrorists since the imposition of President's rule there;

lb) what is the number of terrorists killed/wounded in that State during this period;

(c) what is the number of security personnel killed/seriously wounded by terrorists during the above period; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the law and order situation and eliminate terrorism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the period 12th May, 1987 to 22nd July.

1987, 224 persons, including 21 poliee-*men,* were killed due to terrorist activities in Punjab, 104 terrorists were killed in the State during the peniod.

The information regarding the number of terrorists and policemaa Lijuied is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The steps taken to improve lay and order situation and to curb terre rist activities in Punjab include raid on the hide-outs of terrorists, thei oaroouiers and associates; deployment of para-military forces; intensification of police patrolling, confering of powers of search arrests, etc. under the Armed Force (Punjab and Clandigarh) Special Powers Act, 1983, to para-military forces, and t-trengthening of security arrangement! on the border

Forest Depletion

300. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK;

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate at which forests are being depleted annually;

(b) as against the target of affores tation of 5 million hectares of land every year, what is the actual achievement during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(c) what is the estimate of funds needed for taking up afforestation of land of 5 million hectares every year and

(d) what are the reasons for tha shortfall and what steps have been taken to improve the area under forest cover during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to studies of satellite

imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover dur ing the period 1972-75 to 1980-Sa was approximately 1.3 million hectares.

(b) The targets for afforestation during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 Were 1.40 million hectares and 1.71 million hectares respectively and the actual achievements have been 1.51 million hectares and 1.76 million hec tares, respectively.

(c) It is estimated that funds to the extent of about Rs. 2500 crores will be required for taking up afforestation over 5 million hectares of land.

(d) The following important steps have been taken by the Government to improve the area under forest cover: —

(i) Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests;

(ii) Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuel-wood in domestic and commercial sectors;

(iii) Liberalised import policy for forest products;

(iv) Guidelines to the State Governments—

(a) to avoid clear felling of natural forests.

(b) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(c) to identify critical areas in tha hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(d) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, bio-.sphere reserves etc.

(v) Establishment of Nations Wastelands Development Boar with a view to development of people's movement for afforesta tion.

Use of Plants in monitoring Environ mental Pollution

301. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: SHRI G. SWAMY NADS;

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the use of plants to monitor pollution of the environment;

(b) if so, whether this technique is being utilised in our country;

(c) what are the plants used for this purpose and what are the details of the pollutants so monitored; and

(d) whether the technique has been used to study pollution in lakes, canals, ponds and the ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An integrated research programme on responses of plants to air pollutants with special reference to Sulphurdioxide and Par-ticulates in urban and industrial areas involving 8 centres in the country has been sponsored by this Ministry with a view to using plants for indicating, monitoring and abating pollution.

(c) Certain species or cultivate of higher vascular plants and many lower non-vascular plants such as mosses and lichens are used for this purpose. The pollutants monitored are Sulphurdioxide, Oxidants (Ozone and PAN), Nitrogen Oxides (NO and N02), Fluorides, Particulates and Heavy Metals.

(d) Yes, Sir.